
Name of Organization: Great Lakes United

Type of Organization: Other

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Project Title: Clean Production Project for Basin Communities

Project Category: Pollution Prevention and Reduction - BNS

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 0

Total Funding Requested (\$): 78,947 **Project Duration:** 2 Years

Abstract:

ABSTRACT:

Great Lakes United has been an important player in the multi-stakeholder process generated by the Canada-US Binational Toxics Strategy. We have helped keep the process focused on its goal of virtually eliminating persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes, aided in keeping environmental groups in the basin informed and aware of the BTS, assisted in bringing clean production expertise to the table, and are now involved in direct work with two of the major pst source sectors to help achieve reduction goals.

This proposal addresses our needs for the second year of our Clean Car Campaign with several other environmental groups including the Ecology Center, Environmental Defense Fund, Michigan Environmental Council and Americans for an Energy Efficient Economy. Great Lakes United brings a regional focus to the campaign as well as a focus on the Binational Toxic Strategy goals. At the completion of our first year (October 2000), we will have compiled materials highlighting the car industry's impact on the basin from cradle (production) to grave (shredder, landfill, incinerator). Year two will be devoted to convening workshops and meetings with key automotive decision-makers in GM, Ford, Chrysler, and union members in Canada and the United States. The purpose of these workshops and meetings will be to negotiate company-wide action plans to determine the best course of action for evaluating alternative products or product designs and improving production processes, with the goal of phasing out the use of materials that contain or produce Level 1 and 2 substances.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ohio |

Lakes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input type="checkbox"/> Erie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huron | <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Lakes |

Geographic Initiatives:

- | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago | <input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|

Primary Affected Area of Concern: Not Applicable

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area: Not Applicable

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

General

Persistent bioaccumulative pollutants continue to plague our environment by contaminating our air, water and food. In order to successfully continue to achieve the goals of virtual elimination, it is critical that the public continues to have a voice at the table. The realities faced in an area as geographically large and socially diverse as the Great Lakes Basin precludes most organizations from being able to participate meaningfully in such a process. As a binational coalition of grassroots, environmental, labor, First Nations and sporting groups, and with 18 years of forwarding the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Great Lakes United brings a broad spectrum of citizen concerns and a depth of experience with the issues and process of implementing virtual elimination of persistent toxic substances from the Great Lakes Basin.

Automobile Manufacturing, Use and Disposal

For every 100 pounds of product we manufacture in the United States, we create at least 3,200 pounds of waste. The US and Canada have the highest per capita of waste generation in the world. The car industry is responsible for an enormous amount of contaminated waste from both the manufacturing and end-of-life vehicle processes. Although 75% of the car is currently recycled, the remaining 25% called Auto Shredder Residue(ASR), which contains highly toxic plastics and other materials, must be landfilled or incinerated. ASR results in 3 million metric tons of waste generation per year in the US and Canada. Potentially 2 out of 3 cars end up contaminating the environment. Using the Toxic Release Inventory data, Great Lakes United has created a map demonstrating which car manufacturing plants around the basin continue to produce large amounts of toxins. From cradle to grave the car industry has many opportunities to reduce the toxic footprint on the Great Lakes Basin and help in meeting some of the virtual elimination targets established in the GLWQA. By going upstream and looking at the materials that contain or produce persistent bioaccumulative pollutants, car companies can begin to identify which materials they need to eliminate, so they can work with suppliers to find

alternative materials that are biodegradable or can be recycled.

Proposed Work Outcome:

Great Lakes United will continue to be a coordinator in the Clean Car Campaign challenging the car industry to design vehicles that are free of targeted toxins such as lead, cadmium, mercury and PVC plastics (which form dioxin when burned). We will follow and use successful policy models that are being implemented in Europe such as the Swedish Environmental Product Declaration, and the European Union's Extended Producer Responsibility directives. We will also advance a clean car standard and a consumer pledge supporting phaseouts and bans on hazardous materials and reductions in end of life vehicle waste via higher recycling quotas. Furthermore, we will continue to work with labor unions on clean production policies that provide safer working environments and in some cases the possibilities of job creation.

Work Plan:

Participation in Virtual Elimination Strategy

- Participate in policy discussions;
- Continue to support and outreach to other member organizations and Great Lakes Stakeholders committed to clean production initiatives;
- Prepare regulatory and policy analyses relevant to the goals of the strategy;
- Advance clean production policies via participation in the Binational Toxics Strategy Forums by bringing experts to the table for BTS demonstration projects and other relevant issues.

Clean Car Campaign

- Convene workshops with key car decision makers (people involved in the purchasing and recycling offices), clean production experts, and union members to design plans that enact changes in both material procurement and treatment of end of life vehicles;
- Continue working with the Clean Car Campaign to build public awareness about the lifecycle impacts of the automobile and the opportunities to buy more ecologically friendly cars;
- Further our pledge campaign, which consumers sign and send to car companies challenging them to create a car that is clean from cradle to grave;
- Set up a good neighbor pilot project with a community group which is located in an area that is currently affected by a shredder operation or a manufacturing plant. Work with local group to educate officials and companies about the social, environmental and economic opportunities of implementing EPR policies.

Outcome:

- Ford and General Motors decrease their waste generation by increasing recycling quotas;
- Ford and General Motors phase out the use of PVC plastics and ban the use of lead, cadmium, and mercury;
- GLU helps create a model on how community groups and companies can work together on clean production policies to eliminate toxins targeted in the Binational Toxics Strategy Strategy.
- GLU promotes market demand for ecological cars;
- Extended Producer Responsibility policies advance Canada and the US towards the life cycle material accounting necessary for the implementation of virtual elimination.

Project Milestones:	Dates:
Project Start	10/1999
End of Life Vehicle Impact Report	03/2000
Clean Production Workshop with CAW	04/2000
Clean Production Workshop with Car Comp.	11/2000
Action Plan for Reducing Level 1 Toxins	12/2000
Progress Review on Action Plan	09/2000
Clean Production Model	10/2001
Project End	/

Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

The Clean Car Campaign is actively outreaching to community groups, elected officials and business people to build awareness to the life cycle impacts of the car industry. We have educational materials to use for broad based mailings and we offer to facilitate clean car workshops for groups. GLU's focus is on the manufacturing and end of life processes of cars. Our workshops will focus on how the car industry contributes to the release of level 1 substances and the opportunities to eliminate persistent bioaccumulative substances from the car manufacturing and end of life processes. This will build awareness to the commitments in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Binational Toxics Strategy.

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	44,447	3,947
Fringe:	0	0
Travel:	10,000	0
Equipment:	0	0
Supplies:	4,000	0
Contracts:	15,000	0
Construction:	0	0
Other:	5,500	0
Total Direct Costs:	78,947	3,947
Indirect Costs:	0	0
Total:	78,947	3,947
Projected Income:	75,000	0

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

Joyce Foundation, \$20,000 committed to Clean Production work in the basin.

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

The Clean Car Campaign includes Americans for an Energy Efficient Economy, the Environmental Defense Fund, Michigan Environmental Council, the Ecology Center, Union of Concerned Scientists and Great Lakes United.

For GLU's Binational Toxics Strategy work, we collaborate with our member groups and our board of directors with whom we facilitate participation in BTS forums.